

Goldwater Favors Some Peking Talks

By CHARLES MOHR
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Senator Barry Goldwater said today that he had long believed "talks with Red China might be profitable" to end the war in South Vietnam.

If he were elected President, he indicated, he would be willing to permit negotiations with Peking.

He also expressed a qualified belief that the Johnson Administration was working for a negotiated settlement of the war in South Vietnam.

A little later, however, Mr. Goldwater appeared to modify his remarks to indicate that he had in mind some form of ultimatum rather than negotiations in the usual sense.

Mr. Goldwater interrupted a five-day Pacific cruise to hold a news conference aboard the yacht Sundance in this harbor on Santa Catalina Island. He wore bright red trousers, a white terrycloth shirt and blue sneakers without socks. His face was tanned beneath a day's growth of beard.

Asked if he meant he would be willing to negotiate with Peking for a settlement of the war in South Vietnam, Mr. Goldwater said, "I think that is where you have to go."

Aide Amplifies Remarks

He said that although "I would be willing" to see such talks he would not personally negotiate with Chinese leaders.

After reporters had left his yacht, Paul Wagner, a press aide to Mr. Goldwater, called him on a ship-to-shore telephone to say that some of them were uncertain of his meaning "about Red China."

Mr. Wagner then gave the following explanation, which he said was a paraphrase of what Mr. Goldwater had told him from the yacht:

It has been suggested by military men and some civilian experts that when the military situation in South Vietnam grows stronger, the American position in South Vietnam will make it possible to tell Communist China that unless it stops supplying the Vietcong insurgents, the United States will take some specific action—"blowing up a bridge, or something," in Mr. Goldwater's words.

This was not a recommendation, but a "not impossible" idea, Mr. Wagner said.

According to Mr. Wagner, Mr. Goldwater said that the United States could prevent Chinese Communist supplies from reaching the Indochinese peninsula and that this would be "a convincing way."

"He was talking about negotiation in the sense that you tell them what you're going to do if they don't stop," Mr. Wagner explained.

This varied from the impression some of the reporters received in the news conference. On the yacht, Mr. Goldwater had also expressed a qualified belief that the Johnson Administration was already working toward a negotiated settlement of the war in Vietnam.

"My political bones tell me," he said, that the Administration will act to negotiate a peace before Election Day.

In other remarks, he said that Southerners should not be excluded from consideration for seats on the Supreme Court because some might make "fine members."

The Republican Presidential nominee also reported that his private polls were "pretty much the same" as the public polls showing him far behind President Johnson, but that there were "good signs of improvement."

Mr. Goldwater and his wife, Margaret, are vacationing on the Sundance, an 85-foot PT boat that has been converted into a pleasure craft. They borrowed the yacht from Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Whiteman. Mr. Whiteman is a Beverly Hills real-estate man.

Fears a Giveaway

Clearly the Goldwaters were enjoying the cruise.

Boatloads of people sailed by, and Mr. Goldwater often interrupted his news conference to shout, "Hi, folks." He remarked wistfully, "If I could just campaign out here."

He appeared to show sympathy to the idea of a properly safeguarded settlement in Vietnam, but then indicated serious doubts about its wisdom.

He said he felt sure the Johnson Administration was taking steps toward negotiations to end the Vietnamese war. But he also said he was only "guessing" on this point.

After saying he expected a negotiated peace almost any day, he added: "I hope it will be an honest one, and not one that will give the country to the Communists. I'm afraid that's what we will have if we have one."

He said he "could approve of some kinds" of negotiated peace in Vietnam, "but no kinds that set up a troika type government like Laos, which loses the country."

In Laos, the establishment of a rightist-leftist-neutralist coalition government failed to halt military thrusts by the pro-Communist Pathet Lao.

The current military situation in South Vietnam, he said, "gives the United States little bargaining power."

The Senator added that "if we had kept up our attacks" on North Vietnam and had "interdicted supply lines to the Vietcong guerrillas, North Vietnam and China would recognize there is no future in a long, futile war."

Wary of Geneva Talks

To obtain an honorable peace, he went on, "you have to make the military situation more favorable," and this cannot be done inside South Vietnam itself.

He seemed to suggest that negotiations might be initiated through the United Nations.

Asked what he thought of reconvening the 1954 Geneva conference that partitioned Vietnam, set up a neutral Laos and ended French colonial rule in Indochina, Mr. Goldwater said, "I'm a little afraid of what the Geneva bunch might come out with." Washington has opposed calls by France and the Communist bloc for new Geneva talks.

At one point, predicting a negotiated settlement, Mr. Goldwater said, "The white papers are out, and the runners are up."

This appeared to allude to a proposal by Willard Matthias, a member of the Central Intelligence Agency's Board of National Estimates. He was the author of a 50-page working paper, dated June 8 and published last week, suggesting the possibility of "some kind of negotiated settlement."

While publishing the paper, the Administration insisted that it did not represent American policy.

Mr. Goldwater stressed his belief that a proper settlement of the war in South Vietnam would have to preserve the sovereignty of the South Vietnamese Government. He said he opposed any inclusion of the National Liberation Front, parent movement of the Vietcong, in a coalition government.

But he said at another point that a satisfactory agreement would be one with "as little Communist participation as possible."

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